



Atty. Dkt. No. 062834-0141

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: George H. HOFFMAN et al.

Title: SYSTEM, METHOD AND COMPUTER
PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR ASSESSING
MARKET TRENDS IN A SUPPLY CHAIN
MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Appl. No.: 09/815,715

Filing Date: 03/23/2001

Examiner: Florian M. Zeender

Art Unit: 3627

RECEIVED
JUN 21 2004
GROUP 3600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

06/17/2004 SSANDARA 00000003 09815715

02 FC:1806

180.00 OP



Atty. Dkt. No. 062834-0141

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(c), before the mailing date of either a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.113, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

All of the documents are in English.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

FEE

A fee in connection with submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR §1.97(c) in the amount of \$180.00 in accordance with 37 CFR §1.17(p) is attached.

RECEIVED
JUN 21 2004
GROUP 3600



Atty. Dkt. No. 062834-0141

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date June 16, 2004

FOLEY & LARDNER
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5485
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By

William T. Ellis
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 26,874

RECEIVED
JUN 21 2004
GROUP 3500

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: JUN 16 2004 (use as many sheets as necessary)		Complete if Known	
Sheet	1	of	3
		Application Number	09/815,715
		Filing Date	March 23, 2001
		First Named Inventor	George H. HOFFMAN et al.
		Group Art Unit	3627
		Examiner Name	Florian M. Zeender
		Attorney Docket Number	062834-0141

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
		5,204,821		Inui et al.	04-20-1993	
		5,490,060		Malec et al.	02-06-1996	
		5,638,519		Haluska	06-10-1997	
		5,802,502		Gell et al.	09-01-1998	
		5,854,746		Yamamoto et al.	12-29-1998	
		5,898,765		Teglovic et al.	04-27-1999	
		5,914,878		Yamamoto et al.	06-22-1999	
		6,009,407		Garg	12-28-1999	
		6,032,125		Ando	02-29-2000	
		6,058,375		Park	05-02-2000	
		6,061,691		Fox	05-09-2000	
		6,078,900		Ettl et al.	06-20-2000	
		6,141,653		Conklin et al.	10-31-2000	
		6,167,378		Webber, Jr.	12-26-2000	
		6,260,024	B1	Shkedy	07-10-2001	
		6,263,317	B1	Sharp et al.	07-17-2001	
		6,266,652	B1	Godin et al.	07-24-2001	
		6,324,522	B2	Peterson et al.	11-27-2001	
		6,338,050	B1	Conklin et al.	01-08-2002	
		6,366,890	B1	Usrey	04-02-2002	
		6,477,513	B1	Walker et al.	11-05-2002	
		6,486,899	B1	Bush, jr.	11-26-2002	
		6,564,226	B1	Dickson et al.	05-13-2003	
		6,587,827	B1	Hennig et al.	07-01-2003	
		6,622,056	B1	Lindell	09-16-2003	
		6,643,624	B2	Philippe et al.	11-04-2003	
		6,609,101	B1	Landvater	08-19-2003	
		6,697,702	B1	Hahn-Carlson	02-24-2004	
		2001/0020230	A1	Kaneko et al.	09-06-2001	
		2001/0032126	A1	Macartney-Filgate et al.	10-18-2001	
		2002/0007324	A1	Centner et al.	01-17-2002	
		2002/0016760	A1	Sanjesh	20-07-2002	
		2002/0019761	A1	Lidow	02-14-2002	
		2002/0034673	A1	Bisaka et al.	03-21-2002	
		2002/0049649	A1	Kubota	04-25-2002	
		2002/0069096	A1	Lindoerfer et al.	06-06-2002	
		2002/0069028	A1	Merz et al.	06-06-2002	
		2002/0087371	A1	Abendroth	07-04-2002	
		2002/0099598	A1	Eicher, Jr. et al.	07-25-2002	
		2002/0107761	A1	Kark et al.	08-08-2002	
		2002/0123945	A1	Booth et al.	09-05-2002	
		2002/0128946	A1	Chehade et al.	09-12-2002	

RECEIVED
JUN 1 2004
GROUP 3000

 RECEIVED
 JUN 1 2004
 GROUP 3600

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
--------------------	-----------------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: JUN 16 2004 (use as many sheets as necessary)			Complete if Known	
Application Number			09/815,715	
Filing Date			March 23, 2001	
First Named Inventor			George H. HOFFMAN et al.	
Group Art Unit			3627	
Examiner Name			Florian M. Zeender	
Attorney Docket Number			062834-0141	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
	U.S. Patent Document				
	2002/0143669	A1	Scheer	10-03-2002	
	2002/0143692	A1	Heimermann et al.	10-03-2002	
	2002/0147622	A1	Drolet et al.	10-10-2002	
	2002/0165806	A1	Kataria et al.	11-07-2002	
	2002/0169657	A1	Singh et al.	11-14-2002	
	2002/0169658	A1	Adler et al.	11-14-2002	
	2002/0188499	A1	Jenkins et al.	12-12-2002	
	2002/0194057	A1	Lidow	12-19-2002	
	2002/0194043	A1	Lidow	12-19-2002	
	2002/0198759	A1	Gilday et al.	12-26-2002	
	2003/0009392	A1	Perkowski	01-09-2003	
	2003/0208390	A1	Posner	11-6-2003	
	2003/0208434	A1	Posner	11-6-2003	
	2003/0212610	A1	Duffy et al.	11-13-2003	
	2003/0033192	A1	Zyman et al.	02-13-2003	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶
		Noori, Hamid; Production and Operations Management; Total Quality Responsiveness; McGraw-Hill; 1995; pages 422-519	
		Noori, Hamid; Production and Operations Management; Total Quality Responsiveness; McGraw-Hill; 1995; pages 592-601	
		PR Newswire: Andersen Consulting Announce Strategic Alliance, Looksmart, September 6, 2000	
		Stephanie Stahl, "A Whopping Inventory Task – Burger King's purchasing agency lures suppliers online to streamline its huge distribution system", INFORMATIONWEEK, 1994	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
--------------------	-----------------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO		Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		Application Number	09/815,715
		Filing Date	March 23, 2001
Date Submitted: JUN 16 2004 (use as many sheets as necessary)		First Named Inventor	George H. HOFFMAN et al.
		Group Art Unit	3627
Sheet 3 of		Examiner Name	Florian M. Zeender
		Attorney Docket Number	062834-0141

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶
		John Rendleman, "Burger King Orders AT&T Mail Service", CommunicationsWeek, 1994.	
		Microsoft Computer Dictionary, 4 th Edition, Microsoft Press, 1999, pages 167, 242, 334, 421, 443, 444 and 462	

RECEIVED
JUN 21 2004
GROUP 3600

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
--------------------	--	-----------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.